

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
January 29, 2001
Room 305, State Capitol**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chair
 Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chair
 Sen. Ron Allen
 Sen. Bill Wright
 Rep. Craig W. Buttars
 Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
 Rep. Ben C. Ferry
 Rep. Fred J. Fife III
 Rep. James R. Gowans
 Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
 Rep. Brent D. Parker
 Rep. Darin G. Peterson

STAFF PRESENT: Steven Allred, Fiscal Analyst
 Vanean Bitton, Committee Secretary

VISITORS: Attached to and made a part of these minutes

Rep. Michael R. Styler called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

H.B. 243 Appropriation for Camp Floyd - Stagecoach Inn State Park (*D. Cox*)

Rep. Cox requested a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$9,000 for improvements at Camp Floyd - Stagecoach Inn State Park.

MOTION: Rep. Parker moved to pass the bill out favorably. The motion passed unanimously, however there was not a Senate quorum present. The members present agreed to place the bill on a priority list.

Mr. Courtland Nelson, Director of the **Division of Parks and Recreation**, presented an overview of the division and addressed the subcommittee concerning division issues.

Mr. Stephen Ogilvie presented a financial overview on the "Sources of State Park Revenues."

Mr. Allred introduced the **Operating Budget** for the Division of Parks and Recreation and discussed the following issues:

- 2.1: Boating Specialist FTE: \$60,000 restricted boating funds.
- 2.2: Transfer of Veterans Cemetery to Office of Veterans Affairs (National Guard):
Reduction of \$33,000 Dedicated Credits and \$146,000 General Funds.

2.3: Public Policy and Funding Issues: Pros and Cons of State Subsidies versus Revenues from User Fees

Mr. Allred recommended a total budget for the Operating Budget line item of \$22,270,400, with \$9,177,000 from the General Fund and \$7,552,500 from Dedicated Credits. The budget for the programs within the division are as follows:

Director	\$458,600
Board	16,300
Park Operations	16,549,100
Comprehensive Planning	376,700
Administration	542,800
Design and Construction	441,200
Reservations	331,500
Law Enforcement	339,800
Accounting and Grants	1,008,400
Boating	1,040,600
OHV and Trail Administration	1,165,400

Mr. Steve Roberts discussed the system analysis used to evaluate new and existing state parks. He agreed to bring a copy of the completed analysis for the subcommittee.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to extend the intent language below, with amendments as shown:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation report during the 2001 interim to the ~~Executive Appropriations Committee and the~~ Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee and the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on the planning process for closure of existing parks or incorporation of new parks, including Sand Hollow, into the state system.

The motion passed unanimously. Absent for the vote was Sen. Allen.

MOTION: Sen. Hellewell moved to tentatively approve the Operating Budget of the Division of Parks and Recreation. The motion passed unanimously. Absent for the vote were Sen. Allen and Rep. Johnson.

Mr. Allred introduced the **Capital Budget** for the Division of Parks and Recreation and discussed the following issues:

2.1: Intent Language: Mr. Allred recommended keeping the Capital Budget appropriation nonlapsing.

2.2: Parks Capital Improvements: \$10,000,000 in one-time General Funds were recommended for the priority list.

2.3: Public Policy and Funding Issues: The Analyst discussed the issue of state subsidization of parks capital projects.

2.4: Golf at Soldier Hollow: A \$12,000,000 revenue bond bill will come before the Legislature for construction of a 36-hole golf course at Soldier Hollow.

2.5: Large Nonlapsing Balance: The division's grant programs carry forward funds which have been committed but not expended until completion of projects.

2.6: Grants to Local Governments: Mr. Allred recommended the subcommittee consider whether granting General Funds to local governments is the best policy, in light of needs within state parks.

MOTION: Rep. Fife moved to approve the intent language as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Division of Parks and Recreation - Capital Budget be nonlapsing.

The motion passed unanimously. Absent for the vote were Sen. Allen and Rep. Johnson.

Mr. Allred presented the Capital Budget for the Division of Parks and Recreation. The total recommended budget is \$2,304,800, with \$1,054,800 from the General Funds.

The programs within this division include:

Facilities Acquisition and Development	\$154,800
Riverway Enhancement Grants	425,000
Trail Grants	525,000
National Recreation Trails	200,000
Donated Capital Projects	25,000
Region Roads and Renovation	100,000
Boat Access Grants	700,000
Off-highway Vehicle Grants	175,000

MOTION: Rep. Buttars moved not to keep intent language requiring a minimum of \$100,000 be spent on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. The motion passed, with Rep. Fife voting in opposition and Sen. Allen, Sen. Wright, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

The committee agreed to change the schedule and hear the budget of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 and the Division of Wildlife Resources on Monday, February 5, 2001.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Allen, Sen. Wright, and Rep. Johnson absent for the vote.

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Rep. Styler adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chairman

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chairman